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(54) **SINGLE-POWER DUAL-POLARITY MARX BANK CIRCUIT**

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CPC . **H03K 3/537** (2013.01); **H02J 1/06** (2013.01);
H03K 3/53 (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC H03K 3/537; H03K 3/53; H02J 1/06
See application file for complete search history.

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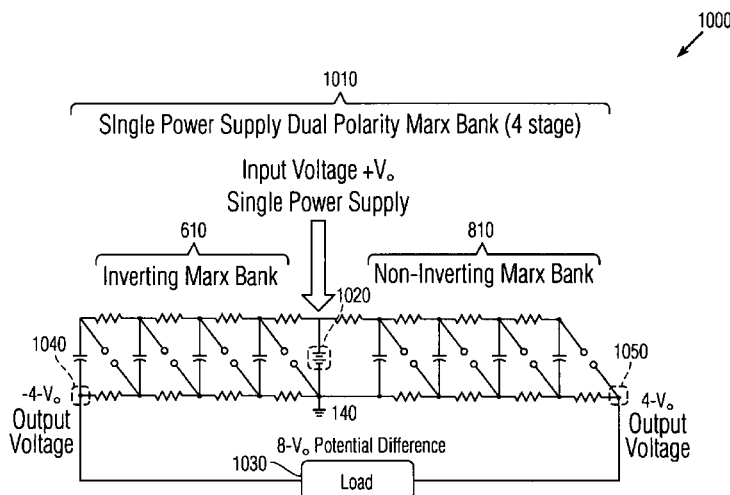
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A high voltage circuit is provided for electrical pulse generation. The circuit includes an input voltage supply, a ground potential, a difference load, inverting and non-inverting Marx bank circuits connected respectively to output voltage nodes. The voltage supply has positive and negative terminals, with ground connecting to the voltage supply at the negative terminal. The output voltage nodes connect to the load. The inverting Marx bank circuit has a first n-plurality of stages in parallel, connecting at a first stage to the positive terminal and at a last stage at the inverting output node. The non-inverting Marx bank circuit has a second plurality of stages in parallel, connecting at a first stage to the positive terminal and at a last stage at the non-inverting output node. The load combines the inverting output voltage of minus n-times the input voltage with the non-inverting output voltage of plus n-times the input voltage for a total of 2n-times the input voltage.

3 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



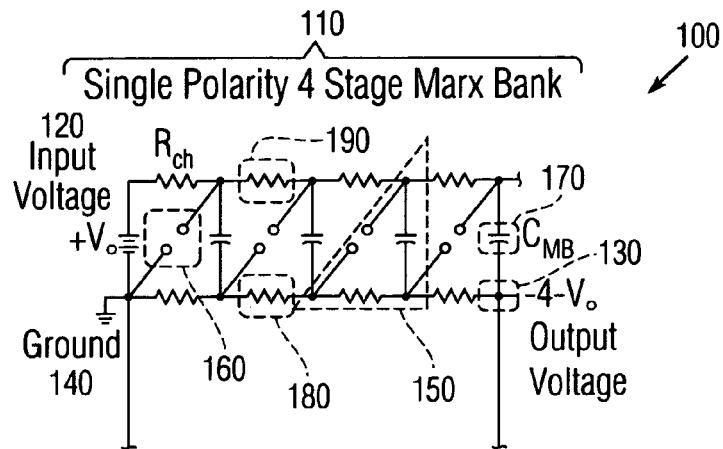


Fig. 1

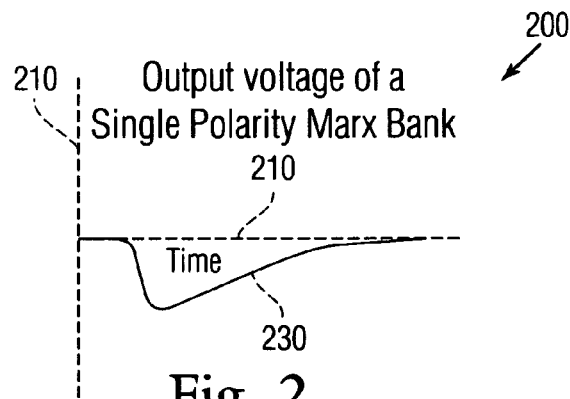


Fig. 2

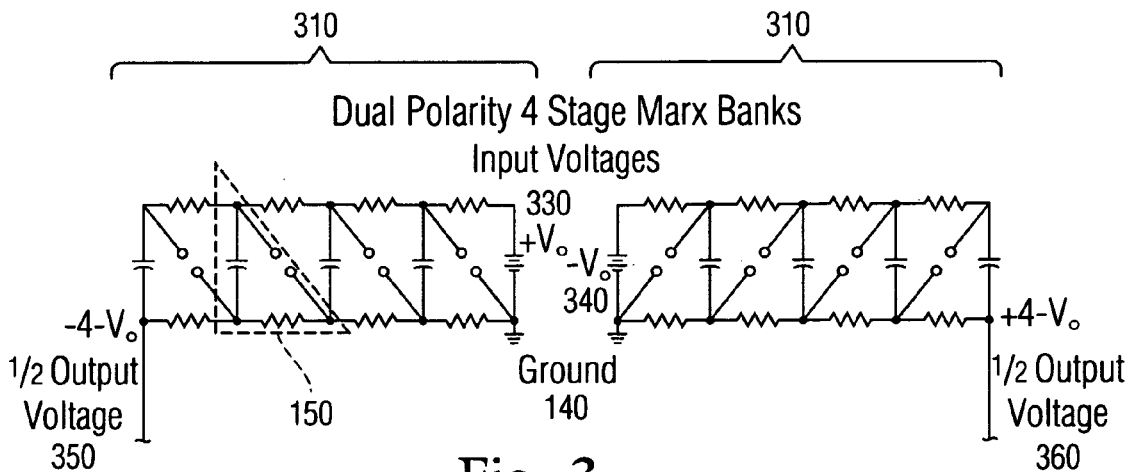


Fig. 3

Output Voltage of Dual Polarity Marx Bank

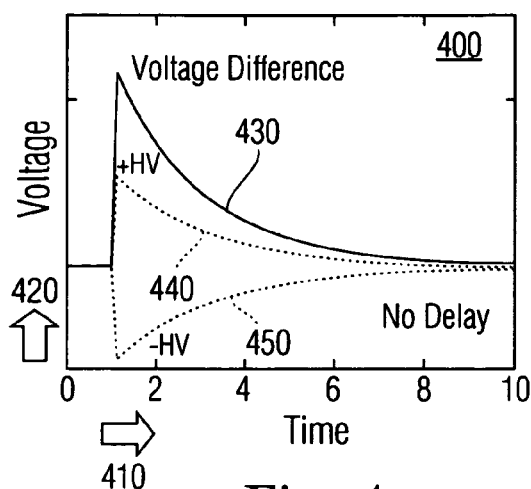


Fig. 4

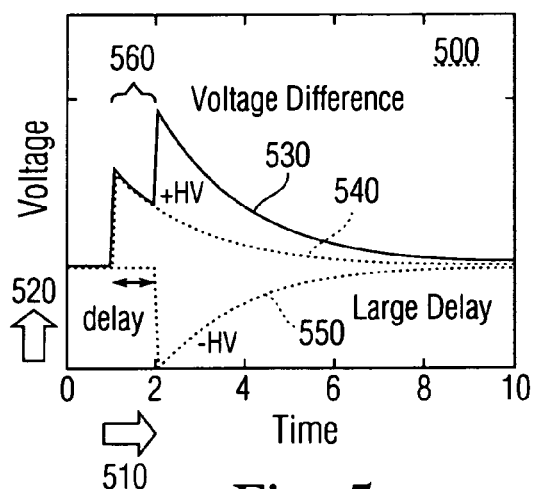


Fig. 5

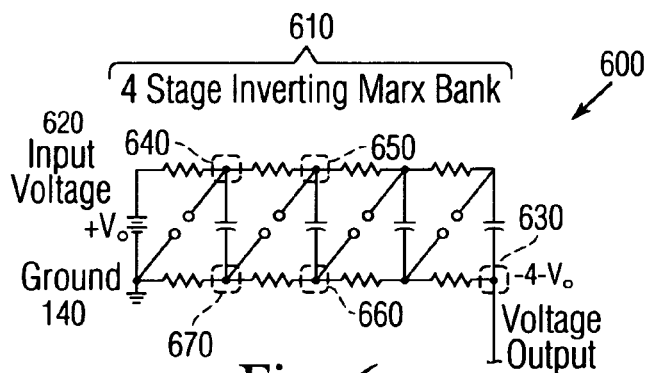


Fig. 6

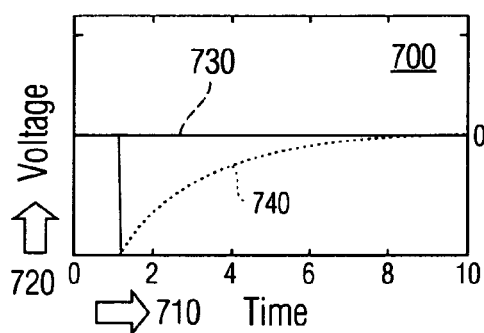


Fig. 7

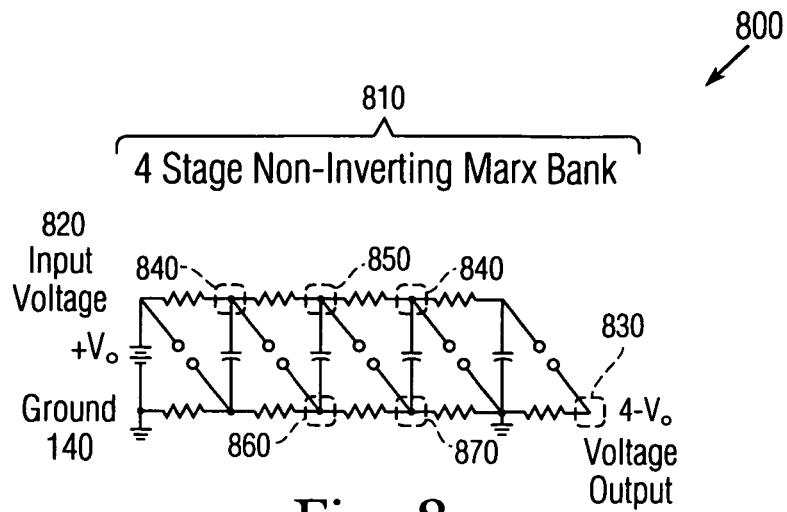


Fig. 8

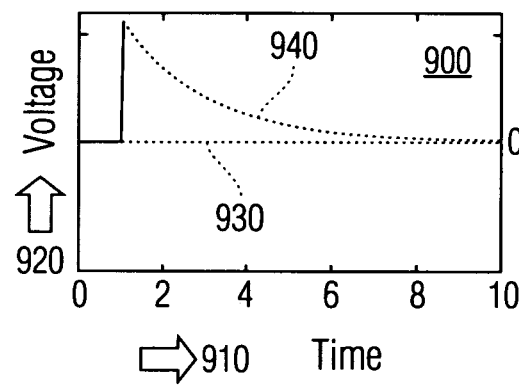


Fig. 9

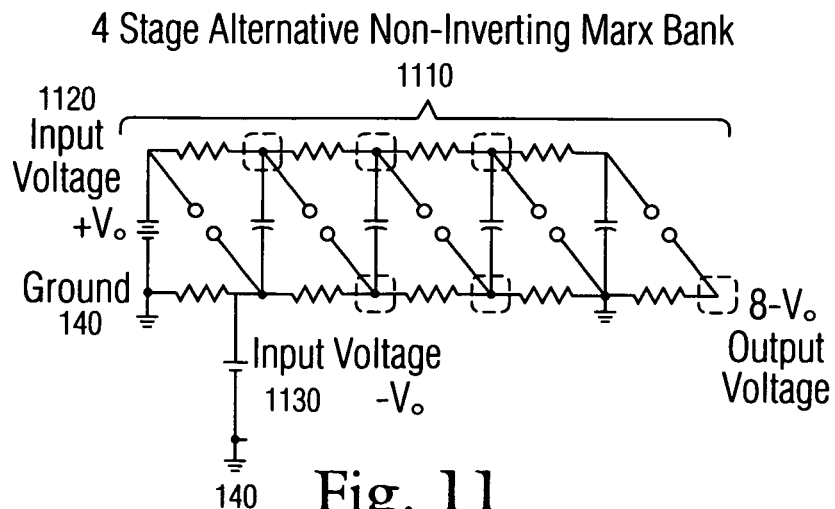


Fig. 11

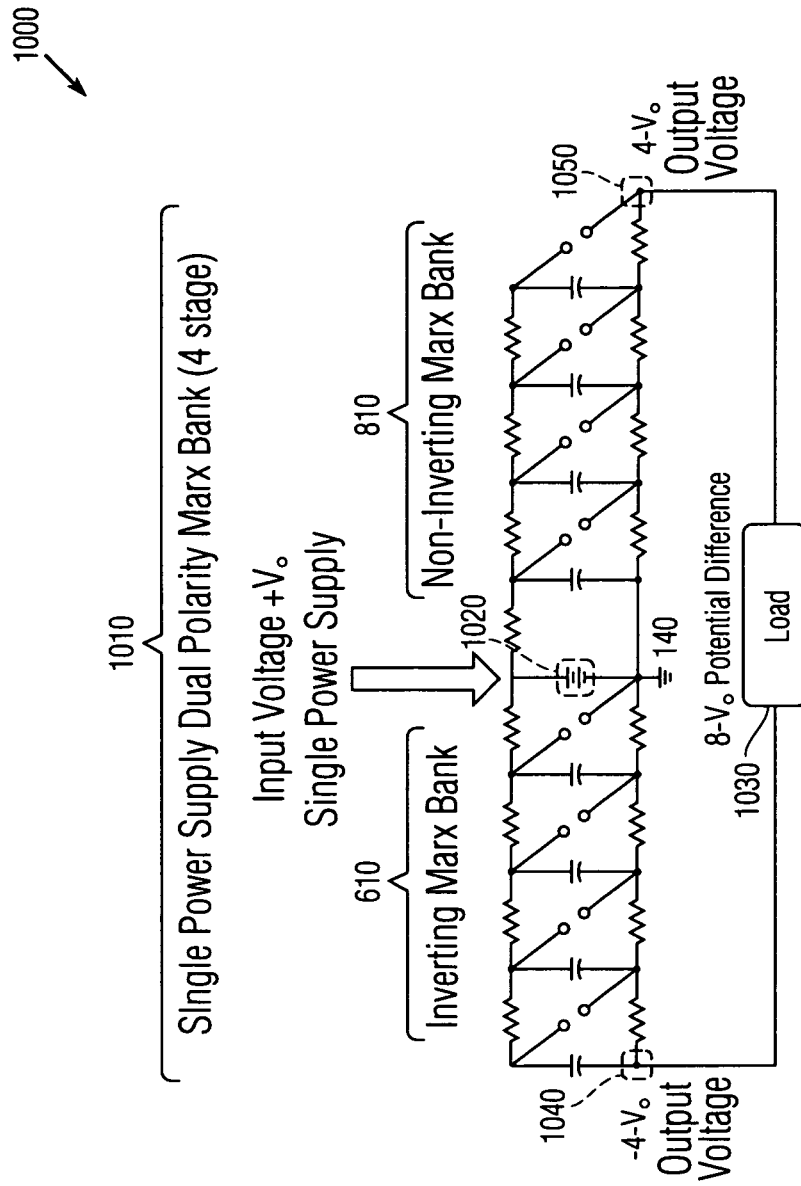


Fig. 10

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SINGLE-POWER DUAL-POLARITY MARX BANK CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT INTEREST

The invention described was made in the performance of official duties by one or more employees of the Department of the Navy, and thus, the invention herein may be manufactured, used or licensed by or for the Government of the United States of America for governmental purposes without the payment of any royalties thereon or therefor.

BACKGROUND

The invention relates generally to Marx bank electrical discharge. In particular, the invention relates to halving the number of power supplies for a given voltage.

Various high power applications include charging of a dipole antenna, pulse charging, streamer-plasma generation, high power microwave generation. Such high voltage (HV) operations benefit from using a dual-polarity pulse (+HV, -HV) in favor over a single-polarity pulse (HV, ground). The conventional way to generate a high voltage single-polarity pulse is to use a Marx bank, originally developed by Erwin Otto Marx in 1924.

SUMMARY

Conventional Marx bank circuits yield disadvantages addressed by various exemplary embodiments of the present invention. In particular, various exemplary embodiments provide a high voltage circuit for electrical pulse generation. The circuit includes an input voltage supply, a ground potential, a difference load, inverting and non-inverting Marx bank circuits connected respectively to output voltage nodes. The load combines the inverting output voltage of minus n-times the input voltage with the non-inverting output voltage of plus n-times the input voltage for a total of 2n-times the input voltage.

The voltage supply has positive and negative terminals, with ground connecting to the voltage supply at the negative terminal. The output voltage nodes connect to the load. The inverting Marx bank circuit has a first n-plurality of stages in parallel, connecting at a first stage to the positive terminal and at a last stage at the inverting output node. The non-inverting Marx bank circuit has a second plurality of stages in parallel, connecting at a first stage to the positive terminal and at a last stage at the non-inverting output node.

Each stage of the first and second n-pluralities includes a charge loop and a first resistor, the charge loop having a second resistor, a gap switch and a capacitor in series. The first resistor connects in series to the positive terminal at a first node. The charge loop has a second node connecting the first resistor to the gap switch and to the capacitor. A third node connects the capacitor to the second resistor. A fourth node connects the second resistor to the gap switch. Adjacent stages connect together with the gap switch connecting to a downstream adjacent first resistor at the second node, and to an upstream capacitor and second resistor at the fourth node.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and various other features and aspects of various exemplary embodiments will be readily understood with reference to the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like or similar numbers are used throughout, and in which:

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FIG. 1 is a schematic view of a single-polarity Marx bank;

FIG. 2 is a graphical view of a voltage output from the single-polarity Marx bank;

FIG. 3 is a schematic view of a dual-polarity Marx bank;

FIG. 4 is a graphical view of a voltage output from the dual-polarity Marx bank;

FIG. 5 is a graphical view of voltage output from the dual-polarity Marx bank with time delay;

FIG. 6 is a schematic view of an inverting Marx bank;

FIG. 7 is a graphical view of a voltage output from the inverting Marx bank;

FIG. 8 is a schematic view of a non-inverting Marx bank;

FIG. 9 is a graphical view of voltage output from the non-inverting Marx bank;

FIG. 10 is a schematic view of an exemplary dual-polarity Marx bank; and

FIG. 11 is a schematic view of an alternating Marx bank.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In the following detailed description of exemplary embodiments of the invention, reference is made to the accompanying drawings that form a part hereof, and in which is shown by way of illustration specific exemplary embodiments in which the invention may be practiced. These embodiments are described in sufficient detail to enable those skilled in the art to practice the invention.

Other embodiments may be utilized, and logical, mechanical, and other changes may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the present invention. The following detailed description is, therefore, not to be taken in a limiting sense, and the scope of the present invention is defined only by the appended claims.

Various exemplary embodiments provide a circuit configuration to create a dual-polarity high voltage pulse based on inverting and non-inverting Marx banks. Higher voltages can be obtained with less electrical stress on the pulse generator than a conventional circuit, and with only a single high voltage power supply.

This configuration applies for any n-stage Marx bank. For the purpose of this disclosure, a 4-stage and 8-stage Marx bank are discussed as an example. Artisans of ordinary skill will recognize the description of four stages for an exemplary Marx bank as presented for explanatory purposes, and thus not limiting to the scope of the invention.

Development of high voltage pulses can be costly. The cost of a Glassman high voltage power supply can range from \$2,000 to \$15,000 dollars, depending on the power rating and output voltage. Raising voltage levels requires increasing the quantity of insulating material needed to contain the electrical stress, thereby producing bulky heavy systems. A dual-polarity pulse generator produces a voltage pulse with half the electrical stress as a single-polarity pulse generator with the same voltage amplitude. In other words, the physical size and weight of a dual-polarity pulse generator would be less than that of a single-polarity pulse generator.

FIG. 1 shows a schematic view 100 of a single-polarity four-stage Marx bank 110 as an electric circuit. A source for input voltage 120 is $+V_o$, while output voltage 130 is $-4V_o$, or minus four times the input voltage level V_o . The input voltage 120 includes positive and negative terminals, and connects directly to a fixed potential known as ground 140 at the negative terminal.

In the exemplary embodiment shown, a parallel circuit of four charge loops 150 is disposed between input and output voltages 120 and 130. Each charge loop 150 has a Δ -circuit configuration that includes a spark gap switch 160, a capaci-

tor **170** of C_{MB} and a first resistor **180** connected in a triangular geometry. A second resistor **190** connects the loop **150** to the input voltage **120** and to the adjacent gap switch **160**. The first and second resistors **180** and **190** have electrical resistance of R_{ch} . The input voltage **120**, such as from a direct current battery, charges the capacitors **170** for discharge across the gap switch **160**.

The discharge enables current to flow, thereby yielding transient electrical power. The second resistor **190** connects to the positive terminal and to the charge loop **150** that comprises the switch **160**, the capacitor **170** and the first resistor **180**. An adjacent switch **160** connects to a junction of the first resistor **180** and the capacitor **170**.

FIG. 2 shows a graphical view **200** of output voltage from the single-polarity Marx bank **110**. The abscissa **210** constitutes time and the ordinate **220** denotes the level of output voltage **130**. The voltage response **230** illustrates momentary voltage decrease of output voltage **130** before asymptotically returning to initial value at ground **140**.

For the single-polarity Marx bank **110** in the schematic view **100**, the four capacitors **170** are charged in parallel by the input voltage **120** up to V_o . Once the spark gap switch **160** in the first stage closes (either by triggering or self breakdown), the rest of the switches **160** also close through breakdown resulting in a series connection of the capacitors **170**.

In the case of an open or high impedance load, this series connection of the capacitors **170** results in voltage addition such that the output voltage **130** is the number of stages (n) multiplied by the input voltage **120** as V_{in} . The load can be considered any impedance between the HV output **130** and ground **140**. This Marx bank **110** inverts the potential such that a positive input voltage **120** results in a negative output voltage **130** as $V_{out} = -n \cdot V_{in}$. The stored energy E_{stored} in the Marx bank **110** equals the stored energy in one stage capacitor **170** multiplied by the number of stages as $E_{stored} = \frac{1}{2} C_{MB} \cdot V_o^2 \cdot n$.

FIG. 3 shows a schematic view **300** of dual-polarity four-stage Marx banks **310** and **320** concatenated together, and each comprising a series of four circuit loops **150**. The Marx banks **310** and **320** respectively connect to associated input voltages $+V_o$ as positive source **330** and $-V_o$ as negative source **340**. The first Marx bank **310** also connects to half output voltage **350** of $-4 \cdot V_o$, while the second Marx bank **320** connects to half output voltage **360** of $+4 \cdot V_o$. The Marx banks **310** and **320** combines to effectively form an eight-stage Marx bank **370**.

FIG. 4 shows a graphical view **400** of output voltages **350** and **360** of the respective dual-polarity Marx banks **310** and **320** without lag delay as ideal. The abscissa **410** denotes time in seconds, and the ordinate **420** denotes output voltage. Transient voltage difference **430** is depicted by a solid line, whereas output voltages **360** and **350** constitute $+HV$ **440** and $-HV$ **450** denoted by dash lines.

FIG. 5 shows a graphical view **500** of output voltages **350** and **360** of the respective dual-polarity Marx banks **310** and **320** with lag delay as occurs in a conventional circuit. The abscissa **510** denotes time in seconds, and the ordinate **520** denotes output voltage. Transient voltage difference **530** is depicted by a solid line, whereas output voltages **360** and **350** constitute positive $+HV$ **540** and negative $-HV$ **550** denoted by dash lines. A delay **560** represents an exemplary time lag of the $-HV$ **550** subsequent to the response of $+HV$ **540**.

In order to double the output voltage, the number of stages (n) must be increased by a factor of two (from four stages to eight stages). As the number of stages increase, the electric field at the higher end stages increase, which for a conventional circuit produces a high amount of electrical stress on

insulators of the Marx bank **110** and **310**, leading to unwanted breakdown. Also, the gap switches **160** of the Marx bank do not generally break down simultaneously. Hence as the number of stages increases, the Marx bank behaves more as a transmission line. Such action causes energy to be lost due to the delay **560** in the closing times of the stage switches **160**.

Various exemplary embodiments provide a conceptually straight-forward process to double the output voltage of a Marx bank using a dual-polarity pulse. As described herein, the process to generate a dual-polarity pulse requires two Marx banks with two oppositely charged power supplies.

For two charging voltages being opposite in polarity in the dual-polarity Marx bank **310** and **320**, the voltage difference corresponds to the sum of the outputs. For the four-stage example, the combined output can be expressed as $4 \cdot V_o - (-4) \cdot V_o = 8 \cdot V_o$, where V_o represents the input voltage **120**. Essentially, a dual-polarity Marx bank is a larger Marx bank divided in half and charged in the middle with two power supplies of opposite polarity.

Separately, each of the two Marx banks has sufficiently brief discharge interval that the delay in the closing times of the switches **160** is negligible. Moreover, the induced electric fields at the end of the Marx bank will not result in unacceptable electrical stresses. The first disadvantage with such an arrangement involves the necessity of two power supplies rather than a single power supply. The second disadvantage involves requiring a triggering device to trigger the two Marx banks concurrently. A delay in the trigger time can produce an undesired pulse, as shown in the graphical view **500**.

FIG. 6 shows a schematic view **600** of a four-stage inverting Marx bank **610**. Similar to the single-polarity Marx bank **110**, the inverting Marx bank **610** includes input voltage **620** of $+V_o$ and output voltage **630** of $-4 \cdot V_o$. The four stages enable the output voltage **630** to be a negative multiple of four times the input voltage **620**.

Each stage for the inverting Marx bank **610** includes the loop **150** and the second resistor **190**, describable as a circuit having four nodes **640**, **650**, **660** and **670** labeled clockwise with node **640** disposed along a circuit line connecting to the positive terminal of the input voltage **620**. The gap switch **160** is disposed across nodes **650** and **670**. The second resistor **190** is disposed across nodes **640** and **650**. The first resistor **180** is disposed across the nodes **660** and **670**. The capacitor **170** is disposed across nodes **650** and **660**.

The second resistor **190** connects between the input voltage **820** and the switch **160**, while the first resistor **180** connects between the ground **140** and the switch **160**. Thus, the switch **160** connects in parallel to the first resistor **180** and the capacitor **170** in series in a charge loop **150**. Because the stages connect in parallel, one terminal of the adjacent switch **160** connects between the first resistor **180** and the capacitor **170** at the node **660**.

FIG. 7 shows a graphical view **700** of output voltage of the inverting Marx bank **610**. The abscissa **710** denotes time and the ordinate **720** denotes output voltage **620**. The graph **700** shows a fixed reference value **730** contrasting with the output transient response **740** as an abrupt negative value followed by a decaying exponential return to initial value.

FIG. 8 shows a schematic view **800** of a four-stage non-inverting Marx bank **810**. In contrast to the inverting Marx bank **610**, the non-inverting Marx bank **810** includes input voltage **820** of $+V_o$ and output voltage **830** of $+4 \cdot V_o$. The four stages enable the output voltage **830** to be a positive multiple of four times the input voltage **820**.

Each stage for the non-inverting Marx bank **810** includes the loop **150** and the second resistor **190**, describable as having four nodes **840**, **850**, **860** and **870** labeled counter-

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clockwise with node **840** disposed along a circuit line connecting to the positive terminal of the input voltage **810**. The gap switch **160** is disposed across nodes **850** and **870**. The second resistor **190** is disposed across nodes **840** and **850**. The first resistor **180** is disposed across the nodes **860** and **870**. The capacitor **170** is disposed across nodes **850** and **870**.

The second resistor **190** connects between the input voltage **820** and the switch **160**, while the first resistor **180** connects between the ground **140** and the switch **160**. Thus, the switch **160** connects in parallel to the first resistor **180** and the capacitor **170** in series in a charge loop **150**. Because the stages connect in parallel, one terminal of the adjacent switch **160** connects between the first resistor **180** and the capacitor **170** with the opposite terminal of that adjacent switch **160** connects to the node **840**.

FIG. 9 shows a graphical view **900** of output voltage of the non-inverting Marx bank **810**. The abscissa **910** denotes time and the ordinate **920** denotes output voltage **820**. The graph **900** shows a fixed reference value **930** contrasting with the output transient response **940** as an abrupt positive value followed by a decaying exponential return to initial value.

FIG. 10 shows a schematic view **1000** of an exemplary four-stage dual-polarity Marx bank **1010** with a single power supply **1020** of $+V_o$ connected to ground **140**. The dual-polarity Marx bank **1010** includes the inverting Marx bank **610** and the non-inverting Marx bank **810** connected together by a load **1030**. The inverting Marx bank **610** has a negative output voltage **1040** of minus four times the input voltage **1010** or $-4 \cdot V_o$. The arrangement of nodes **640** through **670** in view **1000** is counter-clockwise, in contrast to and as mirror reflection from view **600**.

The non-inverting Marx bank **810** has a positive output voltage **1050** of plus four times the input voltage **1010** or $+4 \cdot V_o$. The load **1030** joining the output voltages **1040** and **1050** exhibits a total potential difference of $+8 \cdot V_o$ by subtracting the inverting output voltage **1040** of $-4 \cdot V_o$ from the non-inverting output voltage **1050** of $+4 \cdot V_o$. The exemplary Marx bank **1010** enables the doubling of the load **1030** as output voltage without inducing a delay **560**.

FIG. 11 shows a schematic view **1100** of an alternative four-stage non-inverting Marx bank **1110** that lacks the advantages of the exemplary Marx bank **1010**. A positive input voltage **1120** connects to ground **140** at the upper branch of the alternative Marx bank **1110**. A negative input voltage **1130** connects to ground **140** at the lower branch of the Marx bank **1110**. The combined input voltages **1120** and **1130** produce an output voltage **1140** of $+8 \cdot V_o$ through the four circuit stages.

The alternate Marx bank **1110** also enables the doubling of the load **1130** as output voltage without a delay **560**. However, the Marx bank **1110** exhibits the same disadvantage as the Marx bank **370** by using two power supplies **1120** and **1130** instead of a single power supply **1020**. Also the electrical stress is for the Marx bank **1110** equivalent to an 8-stage Marx bank utilizing one power supply.

Such configurations in views **1000** and **1100** enable the advantage of reducing initiation time for charging and discharging the circuit. Additionally such designs facilitate scalability by doubling output voltage from conventional arrangements while avoiding pulse delay. The Marx bank **1010** creates a dual-polarity pulse with a single power supply **1020** as opposed to two power supplies **330** and **340** of opposite polarity.

This dual-polarity pulse can be achieved by using the inverting Marx bank **610** and the non-inverting Marx bank **810**. The inverting Marx bank **610** creates an output voltage **1040** with a polarity opposite to the input voltage **1020**,

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whereas the non-inverting Marx bank **810** creates an output voltage **1050** with the same polarity as the input voltage **1020**. The potential difference load **1030** combines the output voltages **1040** and **1050**.

By placing a load between the two outputs of the non-inverting Marx bank **810** and inverting Marx bank **610**, the voltage across the load **1030** doubles. Assuming the charging time and identical discharge times of the two Marx banks **610** and **810**, and they use the same switches **160**, the jitter reduces to the order of **100** ns without a triggering device. The jitter can be greatly reduced further by incorporating a triggering device for pulse activation by command breakdown of the switch **160**.

The output of the load **1030** is the same as for an 8-stage Marx bank **370**, but with the electrical stress of a 4-stage Marx bank **110**. In other words, the dual-polarity Marx bank **1010** with the single power supply **1020** has the same output voltage and stored energy as an n-stage Marx bank, but with the electrical stress of a half-n-stage Marx bank, and thus much less prone to failure. Unlike other dual-polarity systems, only one power supply is needed opposed to two power supplies.

Most pulse generators are built in house for a specific application, and most of the applications are in the research field. However, as these applications leave the field of research and become commercialized (high power microwave for radar applications for example), the commercial potential will increase.

While certain features of the embodiments of the invention have been illustrated as described herein, many modifications, substitutions, changes and equivalents will now occur to those skilled in the art. It is, therefore, to be understood that the appended claims are intended to cover all such modifications and changes as fall within the true spirit of the embodiments.

What is claimed is:

1. A high voltage circuit for providing an electrical voltage pulse, said circuit comprising:

an input voltage supply having positive and negative terminals;

a fixed ground potential that connects to said input voltage supply at said negative terminal;

a potential difference load;

an inverting output voltage node connecting to said load;

an inverting Marx bank circuit having a first n-plurality of stages in parallel, connecting at a first stage of said first plurality to said positive terminal and at a last stage of said first plurality to said inverting output voltage node;

a non-inverting output voltage node connecting to said load; and

a non-inverting Marx bank circuit having a second n-plurality of stages in parallel, connecting at a first stage of said second plurality to said positive terminal and at a last stage of said second plurality to said non-inverting output voltage node; wherein

said load combines said inverting output voltage of minus n-times said input voltage with said non-inverting output voltage of plus n-times said input voltage for a total of 2n-times said input voltage.

2. The circuit according to claim 1, wherein

each stage of said first and second n-pluralities includes a charge loop and a first resistor, said charge loop having a second resistor, a gap switch and a capacitor in series, said first resistor connecting in series to said positive terminal at a first node, said charge loop having a second node connecting said first resistor to said gap switch and to said capacitor, a third node connecting said capacitor

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to said second resistor, and a fourth node connecting said second resistor to said gap switch, adjacent stages connect together with said gap switch connecting to a downstream adjacent first resistor at said second node, and to an upstream capacitor and second resistor at said fourth node. 5

3. The circuit according to claim 2, wherein said first and second resistors share identical resistance values.

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